ZERO-SUM COMICS

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Amatsuki 11

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Ginshu

Kuwotobi

Amatsuki
Takamagahara Shinobu

Hakone presents

amatsuki 61

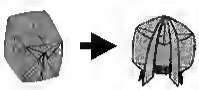
by Koyama Shinobu

translation & lettering

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES AND HISTORICAL MISCELLANY

PAGE 2: CHITOSE SAYS THAT SHE CAN ONLY BE "HUMAN" FOR SUOU, BUT THE KANJI FOR "HUMAN" ARE GLOSSED WITH "CHITOSE." IS IT SIGNIFICANT? HELL IF I KNOW. EVERYTHING IS SIGNIFICANT IN THIS MANGA.

PAGE 17: A "MUSHI-KAGO" IS A SMALL ORIGAMI BOX USED FOR KEEPING INSECTS. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWNFOR CATCHING BUGS OR NUES OR WHATEVER, THERE'S A PATTERN HERE: WWW.GEOCITIES.JP/RIVERVILLAGEKYO/PAGE123.HTML



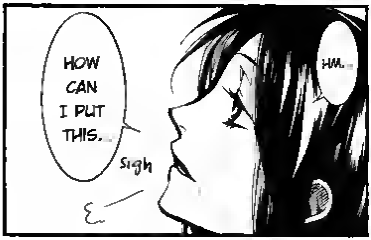
PAGE 20: TOKUGAWA IEMOCHI RULED FROM 1866 TO 1866 AS THE SECOND-TO-LAST SHOGUN. DURING HIS REIGN, THE UNITED STATES FORCED RELATIONS WITH JAPAN (THE FIRST MAJOR CONTACT WITH FOREIGNERS IN OVER 200 YEARS SAVE FOR EXTREMELY LIMITED TRADE WITH THE DUTCH) AND IEMOCHI'S GOVERNMENT WAS SEEN AS WEAK AND UNABLE TO PROTECT JAPAN FROM FOREIGN INVASION. EVENTUALLY, TENSIONS BETWEEN SAMURAI LOYAL TO IEMOCHI AND THOSE LOYAL TO THE EMPEROR ERUPTED INTO CIVIL WAR. IEMOCHI DIED IN 1866 AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 20 DUE TO NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY - UPPER-CLASS JAPANESE OF THAT TIME PERIOD ATE ONLY WHITE RICE, WHICH LACKS THE VITAMINS FOUND IN WHOLE GRAINS. SO MANY PEOPLE DIED THAT IT ACTUALLY LEAD TO THE DISCOVERY OF VITAMINS!

PAGE 20: TOKUGAWA YOSHINOBU BECAME THE 15TH AND FINAL SHOGUN AFTER IEMOCHI'S DEATH. HOWEVER, HE RULED FOR LESS THAN TWO YEARS - IMPERIAL FORCES SOON OVERTHREW HIS GOVERNMENT. THE 13TH SHOGUN, IESADA, DIED AFTER A SHORT REIGN AND LEFT NO HEIRS, SO IEMOCHI AND YOSHINOBU HAD BOTH BEEN NOMINATED AS SUCCESSORS. POLITICAL WRANGLING BY THE POWERFUL SAMURAI II NAOSUKE PUT A YOUNG IEMOCHI ON THE THRONE AS A PUPPET RULER AND LEFT YOSHINOBU UNDER HOUSE ARREST. BUT WHEN II NAOSUKE WAS ASSASSINATED, YOSHINOBU QUICKLY MANUEVERED HIMSELF INTO THE POSITION OF "SHOGUN'S GUARDIAN." HE MANAGED TO SEIZE POWER, BUT ALL THIS POLITICAL DRAMA DESTABILIZED THE TOKUGAWA DYNASTY EVEN FURTHER YOSHINOBU WAS FORCED TO RESIGN

PAGE 21: "ABARENBOU SHOGUN" ("WILD SHOGUN") IS AN EXTREMELY POPULAR TV SERIES THAT'S BEEN AIRING SINCE 1978. IT STARS THE FAMOUS ACTOR MATSUDAIRA KEN AS TOKUGAWA YOSHIMUNE, THE 8TH SHOGUN. YOSHIMUNE WOULD GO UNDERCOVER AS A FIREMAN/GANGSTER AND RIGHT WRONGS WITH HIS INCREDIBLE SWORDSMANSHIP. THE OPENING THEME SONG FEATURES YOSHIMUNE RIDING AROUND ON A HORSE, WHICH IS WHAT TOKI IMAGINES

She was beautiful.

I was too young to really appreciate that, though.



I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M A GOOD PERSON OR A BAD ONE...
I'M LIKE A GHOST,
YOU COULD SAY.

I CAN ONLY BE HUMAN FOR SUOU.
Her eyes were so sad...

Chapter 61: The Mugwort That Grows Among The Hemp, Part 5

GRRRRRR
HOOOWL
WHAT THE FUCK!?
ARE THEY DEAD!?
GASP
STAY CALM!
THEY'RE IMPORTANT PEOPLE!
WHERE IS IT TAKING THEM!?
HUH?
WHO IS HE?

And with that hairstyle, he must be a guy.
IMPORTANT PEOPLE SOMETIMES SNEAK DOWN TO THE KITCHENS,
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIS FACE AROUND THE SHRINE BEFORE I DON'T THINK HE'S A GUEST.
The same face? No...
They just have the same mole.
DO YOU THINK HE COULD BE INVOLVED WITH THE GOVERNMENT?
MAY-BE.
IS THE GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN DEMONS, TOO?
UM...
IT'S JUST A HUNCH, BUT...
AT FIRST I THOUGHT THE YAKOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY GOALS, YOU KNOW?
HE WAS AS FACELESS AND FORMLESS AS SMOKE...
WHAT IS ILLUSION?
BUT THE MORE I SAW HIM,
THE MORE I FELT LIKE HE WAS ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING...

MAYBE BECAUSE HE WAS IN HUMAN FORM?
BUT SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
SEEMED MORE... WELL... MORE LIKE A PERSON.
HE'S BEEN COLLECTING HUMANS AND DEMONS!
AND COLLECTING INFORMATION...
THAT'S NOT ALL.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S TARGETING TOKI AND THAT GOVERNMENT GUY...
HE'S GETTING GREEDY AND AMBITIOUS!
MAYBE HE WANTS TO MAKE A DEMON PARADISE OR SOMETHING?
NO WAY, HE JUST WANTS TO WRECK THE HUMAN WORLD!
STOW!

LUNGE
RIGHT!?
OR WHAT?
TCH
AM I...
SO?
GRAB
stuck
GRRR
SLASH

GRR!
SNARL
SNARL
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
ARGH!
PASH
YOU CAN'T FIGHT THIS THING!!
YOUR SWORD'S GONNA SNAP!!
KUCHI-HA!
FEINT RIGHT!!
ARRGH!
SLASH
SLASH

OKAY!
WE'VE GOT THEM!!
tumble
Oof!
Gah!
DRAG
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!
I KNOW THAT!
huff
GROWL
GRRR

SFX: CUT
TAKE...
THIS!!
Nooooowl
I GOT IT!!

HISS
HISS
HISS
!
SHOCK
SL
AM
GAH!!
LUNGE
WHAT!?
KUCHI-
HA!
KON!

GRAB
WHOOSH
SHIT!
IT TOOK HER!!
AND IT'S GETTING AWAY!!
STOMP
!!
SHOCK
SHINSHU-CHAN!!
!
DASH

rustle
BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE.
YOU CAN RUN...
HIZANE-SAN!
GRRR
WATCH
FLOAT
THIS SORT OF THING IS MY SPECIALTY.
I'LL TRAP IT WITHIN THESE FOUR WALLS.
WITH THIS,
GOOD WORK, YOU THREE!
THANKS TO YOU, I CAN KEEP IT FROM ESCAPING!
whisper
whisper

NEXT IS YOUR TURN!
sigsig
sigsig
HERE I GO.

ORI-GAMI ...?

blow
Fold.

sli de

?

!!

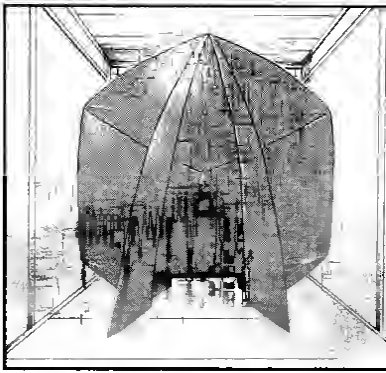
Fold.
Fold.

whoosh
GRR!?
Fold.
Fold.
whoosh
BLINK
Fold.
WTF!?
whoosh
Fold.
whoosh

bounce
AND IT'S DONE!

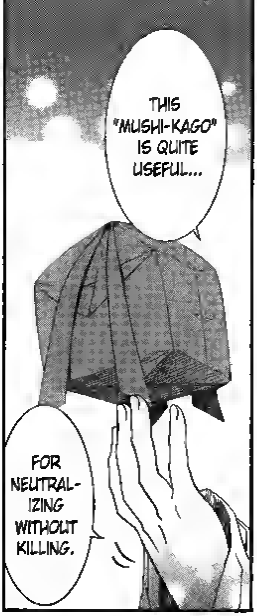
gently,
gently,
blow

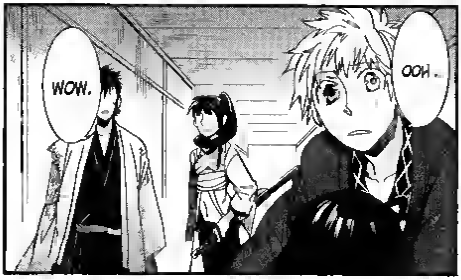
hiss
WAH!



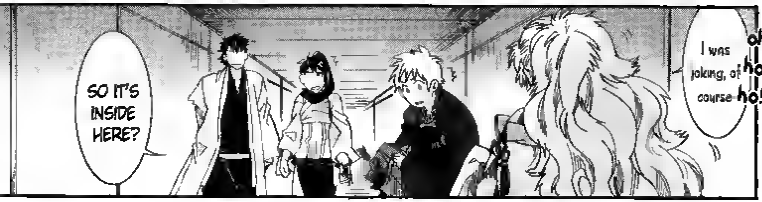
IT'S IN HERE.

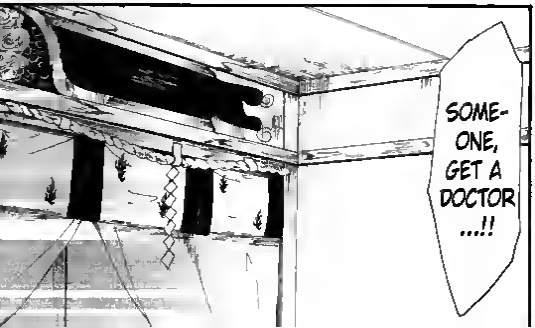
THE NUE...
DASH
SHIN-SHU-CHAN!


THIS "MUSHI-KAGO" IS QUITE USEFUL...
FOR NEUTRAL-IZING WITHOUT KILLING.


OOH.
WOW.

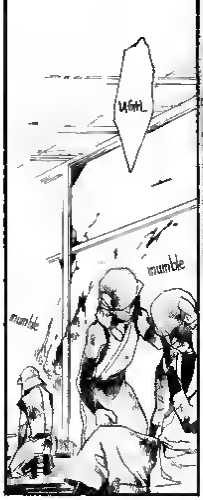
Oh-? It's actually very simple to fold
If you like, I can teach you!
Ohoho~
giggle
bounce
bounce
giggle
OH, UH, I AL-READY KNOW HOW TO FOLD ONE
I think so


I was joking, of course
oh ho ho!
SO IT'S INSIDE HERE?


SOME-ONE, GET A DOCTOR ...!!

THAT'S RIGHT
GASP

SASAKI-DONO!
SASAKI-SAN!

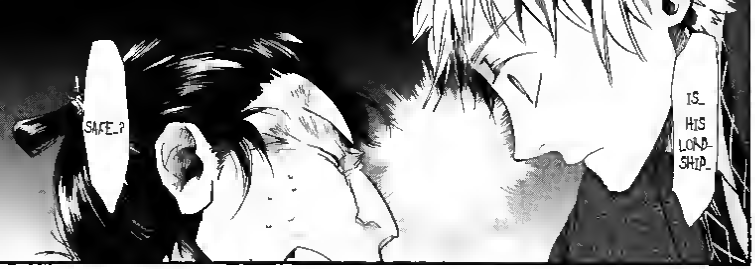

UGHH..
mumble
mumble

HANG IN THERE!
HI... ZA...
!?
OH MY --

HUH?

DON'T --
ugh

DON'T WORRY, THE BLEEDING HAS SLOWED.
HI ZA ME..


SAFE..?
IS... HIS LORD-SHIP...

.....
HE'S FINE. RIKUGOU-DONO SAVED HIM.

"HIS LORDSHIP" = "THAT ESTEEMED PERSON" + "GOVERNMENT REPRESEN-TATIVE" + "MY LORD"
sparkle
sparkle
THINK
THINK
hm
m
THINK
THINK
THINK

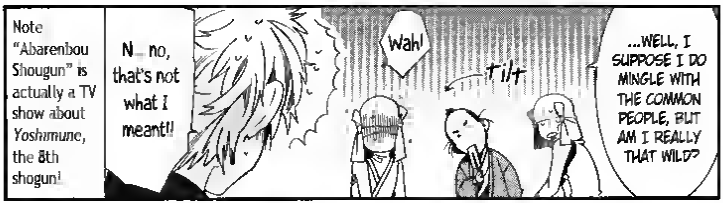
GASP
SHOCK
SOMEONE SERIOUSLY IMPORTANT!!
=

YES, IN TRUTH, I AM...

Hizame-san..?
Um... do you mean that guy with the mole is...
Oh?
whisper whisper

THE 14TH SHOGUN, TOKUGAWA IEMOCHI.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
WELL, THEY CALL ME THE SHOGUN, BUT I'M NOT THE ONE WHO WIELDS REAL POWER.
THAT HAS BEEN SEIZED BY MY GUARDIAN, YOSHINOBU-DONO.
PERHAPS I'M JUST A PUPPET...
Oh?
A...
*Kyuchiha
A...
*Ken
A...

fwoosh
HA HA HA HA
SHOCK
kyaa!
A...
"ABARENBOU SHOGUN..!!!"


Note "Abarenbou Shougun" is actually a TV show about Yoshimune, the 8th shogun!
N_ no, that's not what I meant!!
Wah!
Tilt
...WELL, I SUPPOSE I DO MINGLE WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE, BUT AM I REALLY THAT WILD?

WEIRD ...
shamaare
PERFUMED
shamaare
SO THIS IS THE UNWRITTEN PAGE, THEN?
HE'S A STRANGE ONE!
HA HA HA!

That it hurts
They look so alike when they laugh...
Because of that mole,

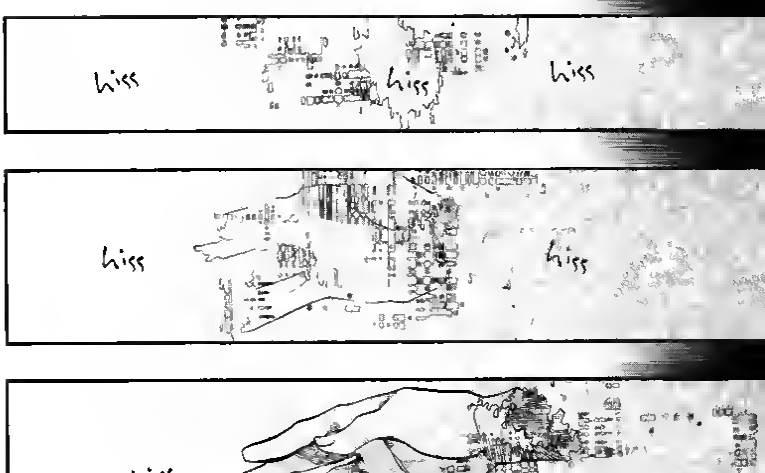
SA-SAKI...
DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE.. SOME-HOW.
MY LORD..
IT'S MY FAULT.. THAT YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SUCH DANGER.
AH, IT'S ALRIGHT.

MY FAULT.
BUT.. THIS IS ALL..

...
SASAKI, YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
sigh

MONEY CAN'T BUY A SHOW LIKE THIS!
IT'S BEEN QUITE AN EXPERI-ENCE.

GAH!?
SLAP
SLAP
THWACK
SLAP
THWACK
SHOGAF
THWACK
NOW,
THAT'S MUCH BETTER!
eek!
Sasaki-san!?
shake
shake
Shake
!!!
IT SEEMS THAT EVERYTHING IS TAKEN CARE OF.
WELL DONE.
smile
hiss
hiss



SFX: *LOOM*